



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

Dear Certified Nurse Assistants, Case Managers, Regional Accountable Care Entities and Managed Care Organizations:

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) recently met with Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) members and families, providers, and other stakeholders about concerns related to the certified nursing assistant (CNA) *pediatric* long-term home health (LTHH) benefit prior authorization request (PAR) process. Based on these conversations, **the Department has made the decision to temporarily pause the CNA pediatric LTHH PAR process effective November 1, 2021 until June 1, 2022, at the earliest.** *It is important to note that only the PARs related to the CNA pediatric LTHH benefit will be paused. Pediatric LTHH Skilled Nursing Visits, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, and Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services will continue to require a PAR.* Benefits will be reinstated back to November 1, 2021 for Health First Colorado members whose PARs were denied during this time, so there is no gap in services or payment for services. (More information about billing will be communicated soon.)

The Department understands the stakeholders' concerns and wants to hear more perspectives to inform the exploration of long-term solutions to address the issue within state and federal guidelines. Therefore, the Department will use the temporary pause to collaborate with stakeholders to identify and address issues. We will reach out to stakeholders about upcoming engagement opportunities in the coming weeks. Thank you for your partnership. We will post updates on our website at [hcpf.colorado.gov/par-updates](https://hcpf.colorado.gov/par-updates).

Thank you,

Tracy Johnson  
Medicaid Director  
Health Programs Office

Anne Saumur  
Director  
Cost Control and Quality Improvement Office

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Visit the [Department's PAR Updates](https://hcpf.colorado.gov/par-updates) web page for more information.